

**Date:** February 20, 2025

**Location:** Ecole Lord Tweedsmuir and online

**Time:** 7-9 pm

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Chair:** Laura Kwong (Chair, Qayqayt)

**Minute Taker:** Heather Kamitakahara (Secretary, Connaught)

**DPAC Executive:** Shawn Sorensen (Vice-chair), Krista Macaulay (Treasurer), Cyrus Sy (MAL, NWSS), Sue Kenny (MAL, QMS), Alison Ytsma (MAL)

**Guests:** Trustee Maya Russell

**Regrets:** Superintendent Mark Davidson, Sue Kenny (MAL)

**DPAC Reps and attendees:** Angelina Rose (Hume Park Home Learners), Joana (Skwoweck), Laura Le, Carline Alon (Tweedsmuir), Alison Ytsma, Temitope Adewale (FRMS), Lorena Cardenas, Shawn Riberdy (Howay), Natalie Taha (Herbert Spencer), Michelle Snow, Manisha Rajora (EGMS)

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Time	Item	Owner
7:05	<b>Welcome, Call to Order &amp; Territory Acknowledgement, Attendance</b>	Laura
	<p><b>Adoption of February 2025 Agenda</b>                      Amendment - Item 3.1 under old business - will be joining us at our April meeting. Removing that from Old business.                      Add under New Business, the Lunch Lady.                      MOTION TO APPROVE by Laura K SECOND by Krista <b>CARRIED</b></p>	Laura
	<p><b>Approval of January 2025 Meeting Minutes</b>                      MOTION TO APPROVE Laura K SECOND by Joana <b>CARRIED</b></p>	Laura
7:10	<p><b>Superintendent Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sent regrets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Board of Education Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Looking at the Provincial government, have had conversations with MLAs and ministers, and received quite sobering messages from them around the financial outlook from the Province.</li> <li>● Clear message across the Provincial government that we are going into a time of a lot of uncertainty and economic downturn.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mark Davidson</b></p> <p><b>Maya Russell</b></p>

- Signalling this is not a year of a lot of expanded funding. Saw that in the Throne Speech this week. There is talk about protecting essential public services.
- Continue on getting public education on the agenda in a way that it isn't right now. Need to keep going and work at it.
- Really appreciated DPAC's participation around joint advocacy.
- Have had great conversations with the DPAC. Do want to follow up with the idea of a group lobby day in Victoria. We have an offer - the NW Teachers Union has offered to cover the cost of travel for DPAC. Have some potential dates.
- Vice-chair Sluis was at a Ministry briefing today. We were encouraged. We have been waiting to see what it means, the creation of a new Ministry of Infrastructure. It does look like there are some real substantive changes for funding in new schools. It is going to be coordinated in a new way. That was encouraging.
- BC School Trustees Association - they did a project canvassing Districts and Boards on practices around substance use. They have put out a really great report called "One Province One Plan". Urge you to look at that report. There is an ask to the Province for some resources.
- Applaud DPAC for hosting the Naloxone training.
- Bringing a motion forward to BC School Trustees on portable funding. Asking for portables to come out of capital funding not operating funding.
- Lunch program - did receive a report at the last Board meeting. We had received some concern so we have been following it closely, and it was encouraging to see the usage continue to go up. There was feedback on a survey that went directly to students that was fairly positive. We have taken a look at all the options and there is not another easy or better or simpler solution. Feedback should go to Rick Bloedel directly. He works very closely with the Lunch Lady. It is very helpful for him to hear directly.

**Q&A for District and Board of Education Updates**

- Joanna (Skwoweck) - our Pac has brought up the issue of the Lunch Lady before for (1) a lot of the lunches going into the garbage. The students aren't necessarily eating the food. (2) a lot of parents are indicating that they really liked how the previous provider provided add-ons such as chocolate milk, etc. Can the Lunch Lady offer add-on options.
  - Has the Board considered ordering the Lunch Lady for their meetings?
- Maya: will reinforce back that add-ons are wanted. On the garbage, Maya will let Rick know about that concern.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joanna: it is positive that the Lunch Lady is on time. If it is our only option, prioritize the add-on features.</li> <li>● Krista - when DPAC rep went to the advocacy meeting, they brought a lot of great information. They said that there would be a package to send out to parents. A lot of parents don't know that they can email their elective representative. How far along is the Board on that?</li> <li>● Maya - we have the package that we put together. On reflection, suggests something that comes directly from DPAC would be really effective. Agreed would love to finalize something that would give key points and information on how they can advocate.</li> <li>● Laura - questions to get people thinking would be helpful. If you ask probing questions it really gets parents thinking about it. We are happy to help.</li> <li>● BCSTA Capital working group report <a href="#">2024-06_CSHWG_Report.pdf</a></li> <li>● Rick Bloudell for Lunch Lady Feedback: <a href="mailto:rabloudell@sd40.bc.ca">rabloudell@sd40.bc.ca</a>.</li> </ul>	
<p>7:28</p>	<p><b>Standing Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chair Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thank you for everyone who came to the Naloxone Training put on by the PURPOSE society. The training is so valuable.</li> <li>○ SOGI Committee - working on bathroom signing that would denote inclusive bathrooms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Vinyl decals for all buildings are progressing. It will be the District Pride logo covering a window at the entrance of every District building.</li> <li>■ Pride flags have been ordered.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Anti-Racism Advisory Committee hasn't met so no update.</li> <li>○ DPAC is a member of the Coordination Committee, which is a new committee following adoption of Policy 8. We are able to send a representative to speak at this Committee. First meeting is at March 4 at 3:30pm. Unfortunately no one from DPAC exec can make the meeting at this time so hoping that someone can step up and act as a delegate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Natalie: would be willing to be the representative but needs childcare. Maya will follow up on childcare coverage or reimbursement.</li> <li>■ Very happy that the committee is getting started and we want our voice at that table.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Student Voice Symposium venue is changing. The District didn't have the funding available for the one-day venue rental. This is alarming that little things that are happening right now. We are so underfunded and it seems it is going to get worse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Krista - we don't have to accept that narrative.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Laura</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Laura - we received more than originally budgeted due to increasing enrollment. Even with the additional funding, our District is facing a shortfall.</li> <li>■ It feels dire and cuts are coming.</li> <li>■ In SD23 families are being asked to pay for the school bus. The provincial bus funding doesn't cover the cost of the school bus.</li> <li>■ SD36 closed down three learning centres. Those students are being shuffled back into mainstream schools. They also had to close down Strong Start centres. These are cost saving measures and capacity measures.</li> <li>■ Write a letter to say we can't afford the venue cost of \$600 for the venue for Student Symposium and DPAC is being asked to fund something that we are not organizing.</li> <li>■ This is the beginning of the cuts and things will be chipped away at the edges until there is nothing more to chip away at.</li> <li>■ Write letters to your MLAs.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Treasurer's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gaming as of January 31, at \$4,884.64. But that does not include reimbursement for the BCCPAC conference.</li> <li>○ We are anticipating to use the full amount for gaming for BCCPAC.</li> <li>○ We have \$1800 in budget for parent education funding for each school.</li> <li>○ Operating account at \$5,201.14.</li> <li>○ Our budget - we have been eating away at a surplus that is not going to continue. Right now our budgets are higher. Special events and speakers are probably going to have to get cut in the future. Have that in our back pocket. We have the surplus now, but in the future we have to think about that. The \$2500 will not always remain \$2500 per year.</li> <li>○ It is a very pressing time for sexual online exploitation.</li> <li>○ Laura: the New West Police Department put out a media release that they have seen an uptick since December of sexual exploitation in New West of middle and high school students. Fraser Health is doing a presentation, next week on Thursday night at Fraser River and online. The event is on our website. Fraser Health is doing that for free for us. They asked us to help pay for an event in March. DPAC was asked to help support that event. It is parent education that the District is organizing. The speaker that they have will do an in-class presentation and the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Krista</b></p>
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	<p>parent presentation. It is \$600 plus tax. It is a private company and they won't be looking at alternatives, they are booked in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Krista - we should take the money from the Gaming budget, because that has to be spent.</li> <li>○ Krista - we are fine to do it but going through our surplus.</li> <li>○ Natalie - it seems it was geared toward middle and high school. Fraser Health is already offering something. What is the difference between what the exploitation group is offering and what Fraser Health is offering.</li> <li>○ Laura - the exploitation education group - their area of expertise. Fraser Health has a much more broad expertise. Likely most is geared toward middle and high school, but very relevant for elementary school parents so that you know ahead of time. I want to support because it is a huge issue.</li> <li>○ Krista - we have \$1800 there which hasn't been touched. Typically get around \$1500. We have around \$300. We have \$1300 that we have too. We have to spend our gaming.</li> <li>○ Laura - Given it is a last minute request is urgent, don't think we should suggest that the schools should fundraise for this. It will be important information for every parent in the district. It impacts every parent.</li> <li>○ Krista - for budget next year, we could help support all-school wide events, or if a specific school wants to take on solo, we could put the budget for next year, would cover a percentage.</li> <li>○ Joanna - want to see more organization and pre-planning for budget in the future. Want to make sure we have a clearer plan in future.</li> <li>○ MOTION: to allocate from our Gaming parent education budget, \$600 plus 12 percent tax to be allocated to the Wellness Centre's Parent Education by Exploitation Education. Motion: Laura. Seconded: Krista. CARRIED.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8:20</b></p>	<p><b>School Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FRMS (Temitope) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Looking at a couple of fundraising projects.</li> <li>○ Trying to get some fundraising activities going.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Queen Elizabeth (Harinder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>● EGMS (Manisha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Main update is that we have a speaker coming next week after our PAC meeting - WEdnesday February 26th. Psychologist coming to speak about ADHD with a focus on the middle school years and how to navigate their needs in the school system. She is a registered psychologist with a focus on ADHD.</li> <li>○ Hoping to have in-person and zoom option.</li> <li>○ Ongoing fun lunches and raffle for the Quebec trip for French Immersion students.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DPAC Reps</b></p>

- Hume Park (Angelina and Michelle)
  - Our PAC has really grown this year and the fundraising committee has had 2 successful fundraisers so far and raised over \$2,000.00.
- Lord Kelvin (Eryne)
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- Skwo:wech (Joana)
  - Readathon - phenomenal. Almost at \$7,000. Students are really into it. It is going really well.
  - Last meeting we talked about the stay at home safe - it sold out within minutes. Planning to run it again in May. It could be a good fundraiser. - First Aid Hero.
  - We were using Square but understand issues with that now.
  - Krista - at Tweeds we use Square but changes could be problematic.
- QMS (Sue K)
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- Connaught (Lorena)
  - Having a movie night on Friday.
  - End of year event - trying to figure out a name because modified to be a small event, June 6th. So far, trying to figure out what to do. Games are very expensive with insurance. Band playing for an hour, and NWSS band might show up. 4-5 food trucks, and fire fighters will come. It will be very different from other years. We will see the reaction from the kids, because we are not going to have any games.1
- Howay (Shawn)
  - Right now we are trying to recruit volunteers for a Friendship Dance.
  - Fun lunches and things coming up.
- Tweedsmuir (Carline A)
  -
- Qayqayt (Laura)
  - Just finished the readathon, which is favourite fundraiser.
  - We raised around \$8,200.00, which is phenomenal for the level of effort it requires. It is so easy.
  - Crossing Royal Avenue is treacherous for teachers and students trying to get outside to the park for outdoor learning. What they want is wagons for the backpacks etc. and collapsable stools so that the kids can go over to the park.
  - Thinking of a spring event. Trying to think of something where we could involve the whole school, which is really challenging with the size.
  - We got another walking school bus route!
- NWSS (Cyrus S)
  - There are growing calls to have back to school liaison police officer. That program was removed a few years ago across all

	<p>schools in the District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There have been a lot of incidents where people thought it would be good to have police officer presence.</li> <li>○ There is support for the NWSS PAC to bring it up for discussion. There is a perception that having the police officer program would be helpful.</li> <li>○ Laura - in Victoria, the Board there was removed, they didn't engage with First Nations who had a police officer there as well. The Board removed them without consultation. Keep in mind when used as an example for PLO program removal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Herbert Spencer (Natalie)</b> - parent education portion - can come back with that cost.</p>	
<p><b>8:09</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Letter to Min. Beare re Gender Data in MyEdBC</b></li> <li>● Right now, in MyEdBC, there are 2 options: Male or Female. So this recently this came up in a SOGI Committee meeting. This is not in alignment with the official position and policy of the Ministry of Education. The letter is requesting an update to MyEdBC. I have heard a whisper that there are updates coming to the platform, so this may be a good time to update it to align with modern understanding of gender.</li> <li>● Want to make sure there is no discrimination or harm that comes from the collection of data.</li> <li>● Have connected with friends around the Province and asked if they would be interested in signing the letter.</li> <li>● <b>Motion for DPAC to send a letter to Minister Beare regarding updating gender options in MyedBC alongside signatures from other DPACs in the Province who would like to sign on.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Long time coming.</li> <li>○ Shawn: the letter is saying there is only 2 options now and want to make it more than the 2 options? Correct, and the options actually list biological sex (male/female) and not gender (man or boy/woman or girl).</li> <li>○ Moved: Laura, SECONDED Krista. CARRIED.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Laura Kwong</b></p>
<p><b>8:20</b></p>	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fraser Health presentation on online safety &amp; child sexual exploitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Next Thursday at 6pm, online and at FRMS.</li> <li>○ 20 min presentation on what to look out for, warning signs that your child might be groomed or experiencing online harm, and a 20 minute Q&amp;A.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Cut in Nurse Practitioner hours at NWSS and impact on students</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is a role staffed by Fraser Health that used to have 8 hours per week. They were a go-to point. That is what the Nurse Practitioner was acting as. Through the Wellness Centre.</li> <li>○ Fraser Health has cut this from 8 hours per week to 4 hours every 2 weeks. It is a huge cut and huge loss.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Laura Kwong</b></p>

- The district is doing what they can to advocate for the hours to be restored.
- What they really need is personal stories. E-mail Mark Davidson.
- The waitlist was already quite long to see her.
- Unclear as to if it is a funding or staffing issue.
- Even if it is a funding issue, those are preventative and early intervention dollars.
- email [mdavidson@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:mdavidson@sd40.bc.ca)
- **District budget consultation for 2026 FY**
  - Previously consultation took place in April, and now it takes place in March.
  - DPAC presenting at the March meeting at beginning of March.
  - There are cuts coming to the budget. Kamloops lost 18 resource staff and leadership staff. The cuts are coming.
  - We normally ask for funding for specific pieces. This year the ask is what do you want us to ask to protect?
  - Laura/Krista - frustrations on the survey.
  - We will collect the feedback, bring it back to the PAC ask what they need.
  - Joana - EAs are helpful to the classroom as a whole, and they assist all kids in the classroom.
  - Laura - bring it back to your PAC and put together a priority list.
  - March 11 at 6pm is the open board meeting, where DPAC will make presentation. AT coordinating meeting in April, that will be where the discussion will be around finalizing the budget.
  - First ask will be at the open board meeting, and final opportunity will be in April.
  - Krista - look at the budget survey.
  - Concern that the District will put kids in the gym and libraries instead of using portables.
- **BCCPAC Resolutions**
  - Insurance for PACs and DPACs - we are currently exposed under the SPS policy.
    - If you advocate for something and someone says it caused them harm ... you are not covered.
    - Act as an unregistered not for profit society. Because unregistered, not required to have directors insurance, which protects. This is a huge gap. If we want to keep operating in this space, it does not make sense for PACs and DPACs to take on how to address this. BCCPAC should advocate for a deal.
    - Don't have the details of that.
    - If you want to help out, let Laura know.
  - Square for PACs and DPACs - we need an exemption to continue to use this tool.
    - BCCPAC needs to get us an exemption for this. It doesn't make sense for each individual PAC to figure it out.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Code of conduct for BCCPAC Directors - recent actions show this is needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ After the last AGM, it became clear that the BCCPAC needs a Code of Conduct.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Cooling-off period for Directors - affirm 2009 resolution, address current conflict of interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ There was a resolution that you can't go from a Board position to a paid position in less than 18 months.</li> <li>■ The current Executive Director was on the Board and applied to be the ED after being selected. It is problematic. The resolution was to have BCCPAC amend their bylaws such that you can't go from being a Director into a paid position. Re-writing this resolution as a special resolution with the bylaw to be added in.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ BCCPAC Special Resolutions are due sooner than ordinary resolutions. It's coming up in March.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9:21</b></p>	<p><b>Adjournment:</b> 9:21pm - MOTION by Laura, SECOND by Krista, <b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting:</b> April 17, 2025 <b>virtual only</b> with Healthy Food/Bodies Relationships presentation at 6 pm, and City of New West on active transportation at 7 pm</p>	